Claim 1 (currently amended) A method for the manufacture of carboxyalkylinulin by reacting inulin with monochlorocarboxylic acid under alkaline conditions, characterized in that:

(a) from 25 to 150 molar-%, expressed in relation to the molar amount of monosaccharide units in the inulin (100%), of the X-halogenoalkylcarboxylate, wherein the halogen is selected from chlorine, bromine and iodine, the alkyl chain contains from 1 to 5 carbon atoms, and X is an alkaline ion from the group of sodium and potassium, is dispersed into an aqueous medium, the aqueous medium containing optionally up to 35% by weight of inulin;

(b) adding to and dispersing into the halogenocarboxylate medium (a) the inulin to yield a slurry, having a pH, measured on the slurry at a temperature of from 20°C to 70°C, in the range of from about 5 to 8, containing from about 25% to about 70% by weight of the inulin, expressed in relation to the amount of water (100%-by weight) in the slurry;

(c) heating the slurry (b) to a temperature from about 60°C to about 90°C, followed by concurrently adding additional halogenoalkylcarboxylate, to yield a molar ratio of halogenoalkylcarboxylate: inulin of from 1.0 to 5.0, and an alkaline hydroxide, from the group of sodium and potassium hydroxide, in a quantity equimolar to the total level of halogenoalkylcarboxylate, plus an additional amount of the alkaline hydroxide of from 10 to 50 molar-%, expressed in relation to the molar amount of fructose units in the inulin (100%), to yield a reaction mixture pH in the range of from 8 to 12, measured at the reaction temperature (60°C to 90°C);

(d) continuing the reaction, after all the reagents have been added, for a period up to 90 minutes, at the reaction temperature; and

(e) recovering the carboxyalkylinulin reaction product in a manner known *per se*.

Claim 2 (original) The method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the halogenoalkylcarboxylate in step (a) represents from 70% to 100 molar-% and wherein the slurry (b) contains from 40% to 60% by weight of inulin.

Claim 3 (currently amended) The method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the molar ratio of halogenoalkylcarboxylate: inulin in step (c) is the range of from 1.5 to 4.5.

Claim 4 (original) The method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the slurry (b) is heated to a temperature in the range of from 70°C to 90°C.

Claim 5 (currently amended) The method in accordance with claim 4 wherein the pH of the reaction mixture in step (c) is in the range of from 9.5 to 11.5.

Claim 6 (previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 4 wherein the reaction is continued for a period of from 20 to 60 minutes after all the reagents have been added.

Claim 7 (previously presented) The method in accordance with claim1 wherein the alkyl moiety in the carboxyalkylinulin is represented by a carbon chain having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms.

Claim 8 (previously presented) The method in accordance claim 1 wherein the slurry (b) is heated to a temperature in the range of from 75°C to 85°C.

Claim 9 (previously presented) The method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the carboxyalkylinulin is carboxymethylinulin.

Claim 10 (canceled).

Claim 11 (currently amended) The method in accordance with ~~claim 10~~ claim 1 wherein the aqueous medium in step (a) contains from about 10% to about 30%-by weight of the inulin.